



NEWS RELEASE

05-155

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SOUNDWALLS AND LANDSCAPING SET FOR REMOVAL ALONG 60/91/215 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

RIVERSIDE – Beginning Monday, May 16 crews from Washington Obayashi/Joint Venture will be removing soundwalls and landscaping along Blaine St. and Massachusetts Ave. near Interstate 215. The work, which is scheduled primarily for late evening and early morning hours, is required in order to accommodate the widened freeway. The plan is to build new aesthetically pleasing soundwalls and landscaping.

“Our contractor should be able to restrict the bulk of this work between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. the following day,” said Patty Romo, Interim District Director for Caltrans in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. “It is our goal to cause as little disruption as possible to both the motorists who use the freeway and the residents who live nearby.”

Construction of the \$317 million 60/91/215 Freeway Interchange Improvement Project began in early 2004 and should be completed in late 2007. The project includes building sweeping freeway-to-freeway ‘flyover’ connector ramps, new bridges for local streets and special truck climbing lanes.

This interchange, which carries more than 313,000 vehicles each day, serves as a major commercial and tourist gateway between San Diego and the Riverside/San Bernardino attractions of Palm Springs and Big Bear.

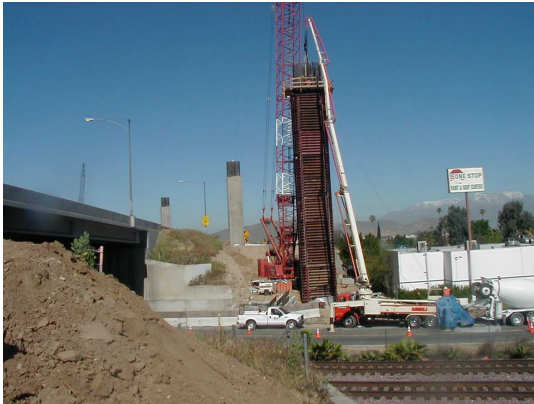
For project updates, call Caltrans directly at 1-866-60-91-215. Photographs of the construction process are frequently updated and can be viewed at http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/6091215/6091215project_pics_pg.htm. Planned lane closures for the entire project are updated weekly and can be viewed by accessing the Web site <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/6091215/schedule.htm>.

MORE



Soundwall and Landscaping Removal
Page 2 of 2

Work on the freeway improvement project progresses as evidenced some recent photographs to the activity. For selected photographs, please call Thomas Knox, Caltrans office of Public Affairs at (909) 383-6733.



Moving clockwise from upper left, concrete and metal column supports stand partially completed and await the roadway deck that will carry motorists from the northbound I-215/westbound SR60 to the westbound SR91, while traffic moves along State Route 91. In the upper right photo, Metal falsework beams and column supports are set in place before building the roadway for the 'flyover' ramps to connect the I-215 to the SR91 freeway. In the lower right photo and looking westbound along from the SR60/I-215, a birds-eye view is used to illustrate the progress of approaching columns that will support the connector from the northbound I-215 to the westbound SR91. In the lower left, a large crane is used to precisely place the support columns for the future connector ramp. The columns are driven to a depth of up to 130 feet in order to ensure the columns will be earthquake tolerant. - Photos by Mario Maala, Caltrans Dist. 8 and Victor Wami, Caltrans, Headquarters.

Motorists are advised to always drive with caution around any freeway construction and closure area. Remember to always be alert, be safe, and ***SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE.***

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